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SOURCE Neue Zuercher Zeitung.FORCED LABOR IN HUNGARY

A detailed document on forced labor, compiled by the Magyar Harcosok Bajtarsi Szovetsége (Association of Hungarian Comrades-in-Arms) and the Hungarian-language periodical Hungaria of Munich, has been submitted to the UN? Special Committee for the Study of Forced Labor.

The results of an investigation into the fate of Hungarian prisoners of war and civilians deported to the USSR were published in a White Paper in 1950, which appeared in a second edition also in 1950. The book contains a list of approximately 3,000 concentration, labor, and prisoner-of-war camps in the USSR. During the occupation of Hungary by Soviet troops in 1944-1945, about 300,000 Hungarians, including 12-year old children and men of over 60, were deported to the USSR.

At present, approximately 40,000 Hungarian deportees are known to be living in the USSR, while tens of thousands more have not been heard of. Deportation of Hungarian citizens to the USSR continued even after the conclusion of the Hungarian peace treaty. All population classes which the Soviets consider especially dangerous are affected. Among others, an entire class of 14-15 year old boys from a Gyongyos school, together with their teacher, was deported because of alleged conspiracy against the USSR. It is known that the class was still in Lwow in 1947; since, however, it has disappeared without a trace.

In May 1951, the USSR government announced that there were no more prisoners of war in the USSR. Since then, however, approximately 10,000 prisoners of war, most of whom had lived from 6 to 7 years in prisoner-of-war or forced labor camps, have returned to Hungary. These "late repatriates" were not returned to their families but were interned. The largest interment camp, housing 3,000 "late repatriates," is located at Tiszaok, where the internees are employed on the construction of a large dam on the Tisza River. In addition, hundreds of smaller forced labor camps for repatriates exist. The efforts of their families to communicate with these internees are said to have been unsuccessful.

Since 1950, forced labor has become a state institution in Hungary. It began with the forced resettlement in 1950 [1951?]. At that time tens of thousands were deported from Budapest and numerous cities in western Hungary to rural areas

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in the eastern parts of Hungary. Currently, three categories of forced labor may be distinguished. The first category consists of persons sent to forced labor camps for an indefinite period by lower authorities on the strength of administrative decisions. This category includes persons who, economically or politically, are not considered entirely reliable. It also includes persons sentenced by the courts who have served their terms but are subsequently sent to forced labor camps and, finally, the "late repatriates."

The second category of forced labor camp inmates consists of persons sentenced in mock trials to long terms which are not in proportion to the actual or alleged violations of the laws. This category provides a manpower reservoir, is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice, and is employed to perform forced labor on a "loan" basis. Eighty percent of the wages earned by these persons are allocated as revenue to the Ministry of Justice, while the workers themselves receive only 20 percent.

The third category of forced labor in Hungary includes all deportees of 1950 as well as of more recent dates. These deportees were separated from their families and detained in central camps, if able to work. Women and old men were left to shift for themselves and the children were sent to educational institutions. Thus, the families of the deportees of 1950 have been broken up completely. Recently, deported persons are transported to closed camps in the arid Hortobagy, where they are employed on soil-improvement projects, in the construction of irrigation canals, and on cotton and rice cultivation.

Men of draft age are classified according to their political reliability. Those who are not admitted to arms-bearing units are employed in the construction of military installations under army control. According to confidential information given to the authorities, [not further identified], children and youth have also been included in the forced labor system. They are divided into four age groups, each of which is required to fulfill a specific work quota set by the authorities. The wages of children and youth are taken from them in the form of contributions to Communist organizations.

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